

REMARKS

Claims 19-28, 31-34, 37-40, 42-45, 47-50 and 52-67 are pending in this application, of which Claims 19, 27, 31, 33, 37, 39, 40, 42-45, 47-50, 52, 53, 55 and 65-67 are independent claims. Claims 29, 30, 35, 36, 41, 46 and 51 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 37, 39, 40, 42-45, 47-50, 52 and 53, all of which have been allowed, have been amended purely as to formal matters that, while not narrowing the scope of these claims, also are not believed to affect their allowability. Claims 54-67 have been added to assure Applicants a fuller measure of protection of the scope to which they deem themselves entitled.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 19-28, 31-34, 37-40, 42-45, 47-50, 52 and 53.

The new independent claims are believed to be allowable for reasons similar to those for which the existing independent claims have been allowed. For example, independent Claim 55 is directed to an image processing apparatus that comprises storage means for storing information concerning a gradation conversion curve, and high-frequency component generation means for generating a high-frequency component of an image, or of an image obtained by performing gradation conversion on the image, using the gradation conversion curve. Also provided are conversion means for converting a magnitude of an amplitude of the high-frequency component, and addition means for adding the converted high-frequency component to the image, or to the image obtained by performing the gradation conversion on the image using the gradation conversion curve. The conversion means convert the amplitude

of the high-frequency component on the basis of the information concerning the gradation conversion curve.

At the very least, it is believed that nothing in the art of record would teach or suggest converting the amplitude of a high-frequency component on the basis of information concerning a gradation conversion curve, as recited in Claim 55, and that claim is believed to be allowable for at least that reason. Each of the other newly-added independent claims is believed to be allowable for the same reasons as is Claim 55.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application that have not yet been allowed are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

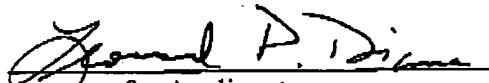
This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and its entry is therefore believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. In any event, however, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, he is respectfully requested to contact

Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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